

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10014 310520Z

17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 310436Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4735

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 10014

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: KIM YONG-SAM VISITS PROSECUTOR

1. NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM REPORTED VOLUNTARILY TO SEOUL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE DECEMBER 30 FOR QUESTIONING CONCERNING ALLEGED EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE VIOLATIONS MADE DURING HIS AUG. 23 PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN HE CALLED FOR REVOCATION OF YUSHIN CONSTITUTION. KIM MET WITH NEW PROSECUTOR GENERAL YI SON-CHUNG AND WAS REPORTEDLY QUESTIONED FOR THREE HOURS BY A SENIOR PROSECUTOR. SINCE AUGUST KIM HAD REFUSED TO RESPOND TO REPEATED SUBPOENAS FROM PROSECUTOR TO COME IN TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

2. NDP SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT NDP DECISION FOR KIM TO OBEY SUBPOENAS WAS MADE AT DEC. 29 POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING. PRESS SPECULATES THAT DECISION RELATED TO CALL BY PRIME MINISTER CHOE KYU-HA ON KIM AT NDP OFFICE ON DEC. 29. HOWEVER, NDP SPOKESMAN HAN PYONG-CHAE HAS TOLD US THAT CHOE AND KIM DID NOT DISCUSS SUBPOENA.

3. ACCORDING TO HAN, MAJOR FACTOR IN NDP DECISION WAS GOVERN-
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MENT'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER RELEASE OF IMPRISONED NDP STAFF

MEMBERS KIM TOK-YONG AND CHON YONG-CHU UNLESS KIM YONG-SAM RESPONDED TO SUMMONS (KIM AND CHON WERE JAILED IN OCT. UNDER EM-9 FOR POSSESSION JAPANESE NEWSPAPER CONTAINING ANTI-HYUSHIN ARTICLE). HAN SAID KIM AND CHON WERE CLEARLY BEING USED AS HOSTAGES. KIM VISITED NDP STAFFERS IN JAIL AFTERNOON DEC. 30 FOLLOWING MEETING WITH PROSECUTOR. HAN SAID ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IN DECISION WAS DESIRE BY NDP LEADERS TO SETTLE ANNOYING CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT BEFORE NEW YEAR.

COMMENT: CALL BY PRIME MINISTER ON KIM, MEETING WITH NEW PROSECUTORS, AND SHOW OF CONCERN FOR JAILED NDP STAFF MEMBERS HAVE ALLOWED KIM YONG-SAM TO GIVE IN TO GOVERNMENT WITH MINIMUM LOSS OF FACE. HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT IN THE END KIM BOWED TO GOVERNMENT PRESSURE. GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT HAVING DEMONSTRATED ITS POWER ROKG WILL NOT PURSUE CASE AGAINST KIM.
SNEIDER

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